

PASTORAL MESSAGE

For 5/9/20

So, who can relate to this statement that was submitted to an on-line skills coach recently?

“With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, I am up to my ears in work. I don’t know any other way to say it: I have too much to do, and not enough time. With the quarantine, kids at home, and clients cancelling, I have ten to fifteen new projects on my plate, on top of what I already had. I wish I could declare to-do list bankruptcy and walk away from it all. Is there any way around this?” Sincerely, Bankrupt



If you are in a leadership position in the congregation, you may be feeling the “to-do list” stress. Many things need to happen before we can even entertain the notion of returning to some semblance of normal. Taking steps to “return,” to walk backwards to an earlier time, probably isn’t in the best interest of the church or the Kingdom of God. Let’s be honest, and acknowledge that the present and future will be different from the past.

“How will we fulfill our vision and mission as a church?” would be a better question. What steps are needed, individually and as a congregation, to be a tool for God’s transformation? Page 3 of our 2020 Church Directory helps us to focus on our vision and mission statements.

Vision Statement

To be a compassionate congregation that grows deeper in our relationship with Jesus Christ through living Holy Spirit filled lives, and sharing the Gospel message of Good News for all people.

Mission Statement

To consciously live out the incarnation of Jesus Christ by being a tool for God’s transformation of our community and the world, through our corporate worship, personal discipline, and evangelistic witness.

The COVID-19 pandemic has not stopped us from living out our mission as a congregation. We haven’t stopped worship, personal discipline, or evangelistic witness. We have been powered by the same vision, as before the global crisis.

However, the questions before us are challenging. If we rush to go backwards, we will miss the opportunity to honor the reality of our present. The questions of our present reality would include ...

- As we have changed our ways of worship and studying together, what old and new tools will be most fruitful and effective going forward? Who is stepping forward to lead?
- Some small group gatherings haven’t continued. Is there enough personal connection to renew these gatherings? Have people voted for something new, by their disconnect?
- What new experiences are proving fruitful in the lives of God’s people? How can we support these new vines of fruit-giving? Who is stepping forward to lead? Who is lending their hand in support?

Keep our congregation in your prayers, and share your thoughts. May God bless you, and through you, the world.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Chris